

State of Texas  
House of Representatives



Pete P. Gallego

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April 19, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up  
CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket 03-109**

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As members of the Texas State Legislature and the House Democratic Caucus, we are writing to stress the importance and positive impact of the Universal Service Fund and the Lifeline Assistance Program on the low-income residents of Texas.

The Texas unemployment rate stands at 8.3% statewide, and the Lifeline Assistance Program currently offers over 836,000 Texas residents who meet federal poverty guidelines and participate in assistance programs like Medicaid and food stamps discounted landline and wireless phone services.

These services allow every qualified household to have access to a phone in which to keep in contact with prospective employers, emergency services, and family. Because the Lifeline Assistance Program is not funded by taxpayer dollars but by a percentage of the long-distance service revenue of telecommunication companies, the program provides the state of Texas a cost-effective tool to fight unemployment.

We understand that the Commission will be issuing a ruling concerning the restructuring of the Universal Service and the Lifeline Assistance Program very soon.

Chairman Genachowski  
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We urge the Commission to implement measures that ensure the continuation of these vital services to rural and low-income households.

Sincerely,



Representative Pete Gallego  
District 74



Representative Chente Quintanilla  
District 75



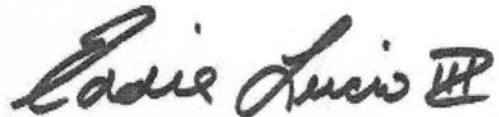
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